

## **Hurricane-Small Animal Evacuation**

### **Preparedness Before The Disaster**

Countless times people have been told to leave their homes for a “short time”, only to find that they cannot return for days or weeks. Even disasters like gas leaks and minor flooding can keep you from tending to your animals for extended periods of time. To prevent situations such as these **TAKE YOUR ANIMALS WITH YOU.**

It is best to be overly cautious during a disaster warning. Preparing ahead of time and acting quickly is the best way to keep you and your family, including your animals, out of danger.

- Setup an appointment to talk to your **veterinarian** about disaster planning.
- Assemble an animal **evacuation kit**.
- Familiarize yourself with each type of disaster that could affect your area, including a hazardous materials spill.
- Develop an evacuation plan for all of your animals and practice it.
- If you live in an apartment, make sure your animals are on record with management and are able to evacuate via the stairwell. Dogs should be taught to go up and down stairs to better assist rescue personnel.
- Keep written directions to your home near your telephone. This will help you and others explain to emergency responder exactly how to get to your home.
- Identify alternate sources of food and water. Some local food and water sources may be disrupted or contaminated for extended periods of time.
- Have backup generator for use in food-animal production operations.
- Keep all vehicles well maintained and full of gas.
- Keep emergency cash on hand.

### **In Case You Are Not At Home**

Preplace stickers on front and back house doors, barn doors, and pasture entrances to notify neighbors, fire fighters, police, and other rescue personnel that animals are on your property and where to find your evacuation supplies. Provide a list near your evacuation supplies of the number, type, and location of your animals, noting favorite hiding spots, in order to save precious rescue time.

To facilitate a successful rescue, provide muzzles, handling gloves, catchnets, and animal restraints where rescue personnel can find them. Keep in mind that animals may become fractious when frightened.

Designate a willing neighbor to tend to your animals in the event that a disaster occurs when you are not at home. This person should have a key to your home, be familiar with your animals, know your evacuation procedures, and know where your evacuation supplies are kept. It is suggested that you sign a letter that releases your neighbor from responsibility should one of your animals become injured and sign a veterinary medical treatment authorization form.

## **Identification**

Having identification on your animals, including rabies and license tags, if applicable, will help reunite you with your animal(s) in the event that you are separated. Identification should provide your name, home address, a phone number where you can be reached, and an out-of-state phone number of someone that you will be in contact with during or soon after the disaster/evacuation. If possible, include your veterinarian's name, location, and phone number. Forms of identification are listed below.

### **Small Animal**

- collar tag (a piece of tape applied to the back of the collar can provide evacuation site information.
- microchip
- tattoo
- temporary neckband

## **Proof of Ownership**

Make copies of registration information, adoption papers, proof of purchase, and microchip information to store in the evacuation kit. List each one of your animals and their species, breed, age, sex, color and distinguishing characteristics.

Keep current photographs of your animals in the evacuation kit for identification purposes. Include yourself in some of the photos to help you reclaim your lost animal(s). Consider preparing laminated "Lost Pet" signs with your animal's photo attached, your name and your contact information to use in case your animal is lost.

## **Transportation/Housing**

It is important to separate animals from different households as much as possible and to maintain the best possible hygiene to decrease disease transmission.

### **Small Animal:**

Have a leash, collar, and/or harness for each pet. Have a collapsible cage or airline approved carrier for each pet, including proper bedding, for transportation and housing purposes. Familiarize your animals with evacuation procedures and cages/carriers. Take the cage/carrier out several times a year and put dog or cat treats inside with blankets and toys. By doing this, you will reinforce positive feelings associated with the animal carrier.

For housing purposes, cat carriers should be large enough to hold a small litter pan and two small dishes and still allow your cat enough room to lie down comfortably or stand to use the litter pan. Dog kennels or collapsible cages should be large enough to hold nonspill bowls and still allow enough room for your dog to stand and turn around. For added assurance, clearly label each carrier with your identification and contact information.

Owning enough carriers to accommodate your pets facilitates a speedy evacuation and may mean the difference between the life or death of your pet.

Locate and prearrange an evacuation site for your family and animals outside your immediate area. Ideally, this will be a friend/relative or a pet-friendly hotel that is willing to let your family and animals stay in the event of a disaster. However, other possible animal housing options include veterinary hospitals, boarding kennels, and animal shelters.

### **Evacuation Essentials**

The following lists will help you prepare for your animal(s) in the event of a disaster. The evacuation kit should be assembled in an easy-to-carry, waterproof container. It should be stored in an easily accessible location away from areas with temperature extremes. Replace the food, water, and medications as often as need to maintain their quality and freshness and in accordance with the expiration dates. Indicate, if needed, medications that are stored elsewhere due to temperature requirements such as refrigeration.

Consult your veterinarian for advice on making an animal evacuation kit and first aid kit that is appropriate for your individual animals. It is important that you become familiar with the items in your kit and their uses. Your veterinarian may recommend an animal first aid book to include in your kit. Consult your veterinarian regarding emergency first aid procedures and administration of any medications.

### **Small Animal Evacuation Kit**

- ☐ 2-week supply of food (dry & canned)
- ☐ 2-week supply of water in plastic gallon jugs
- ☐ Batteries (flashlight, radio)
- ☐ Cage/carrier (for each animal, labeled with your contact information)
- ☐ Can opener (manual)
- ☐ Cat/wildlife gloves
- ☐ Copies of veterinary records and proof of ownership
- ☐ Emergency contact list
- ☐ Familiar items to make pets feel comfortable (favorite toys, treats, blankets)
- ☐ First aid kit (see next page)
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Instructions
  - Diet: Record the diet for each individual animal, including what not to feed in case of allergies.
  - Medications: List each animal separately, including dose and frequency for each medication. Provide veterinary and pharmacy contact information for refills.
- ☐ Leash, collar, harness (for each animal)
- ☐ Litter, litter pan, litter scoop
- ☐ Maps of local area and alternate evacuation Routes (in case of road closures)
- ☐ Muzzles (dog or cat)
- ☐ Newspaper (bedding, litter)
- ☐ Nonspill food and water dishes
- ☐ Paper towels
- ☐ Radio (solar and battery operated)
- ☐ Spoon (canned food)
- ☐ Stakes and tie-outs
- ☐ Trash bags

### **Small Animal first Aid Kit**

Consult your veterinarian when developing the first aid kit. The items below serve only as an example of what may be included in a small animal first aid kit.

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Activated charcoal (liquid)                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Isopropyl alcohol/alcohol prep pads                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antidiarrheal liquid or tablets                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Latex gloves or non-allergenic gloves                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antibiotic ointment (wounds)                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Liquid dish detergent (mild wound and body cleanser)                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antibiotic eye ointment                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Measuring spoons  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bandage scissors                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Medications & preventatives such as heartworm prevention w/instructions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bandage tape                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-adherent bandage pads   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Betadine or Nolvasan (scrub and solution)          | <input type="checkbox"/> Saline solution (for rinsing wounds)                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cotton bandage rolls                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Sterile lubricant (waterbased)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cotton-tipped swabs                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Styptic powder (clotting agent)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elastic bandage rolls                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Syringe or eyedropper   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eye rinse (sterile)                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer (digital)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flea and tick prevention and treatment             | <input type="checkbox"/> Tourniquet  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gauze pads and rolls                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Towel and washcloth   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrogen peroxide                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Tweezers  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ice cream sticks<br>(which may be used as splints) |  |

### **A Poem by Cindy Swancott Lovern**

*As the winds blow on  
And the waters rise deep  
You can hear their cries  
You can hear them weep  
Those you have brought into your home  
Those who are loyal, caring and warm.  
You feed them each day, and tell them to stay  
And now when they need you, don't turn them away.  
When you vowed to love, when you vowed to care  
You vowed to sacrifice, and vowed to prepare.  
So now in times of trouble and strife  
You are responsible for more than one life.  
You need to plan, think, and prepare  
For all those who need you  
Those who depend on your care.*